

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is requested in view of the above amendments and in light of the following remarks and discussion.

Claims 31-56 are pending in the application. Independent claims 31-33, 39, 44, 49 and 53 are amended.

In the Office Action claims 31-56 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,167,469 to Safai et al. (Safai). It is requested that the rejection of the claims be withdrawn, and that the claims be allowed, for the following reasons.

As discussed throughout the specification, the filing system of the present invention can automatically store image data in an image storage medium of a data processing apparatus 100 (or a multi-function peripheral) or a file server 108 immediately after the image data is captured. Thus, it is not necessary for a user of the filing system to pay special attention to storing the image data in the storage medium. Identifications of authorized users for the document to be exchanged are created when the image data is first captured, and the image data and the identifications are stored together in the storage medium of the filing system, such that the stored image data can be subsequently accessed by authorized users, and access of the stored image data by unauthorized users is prevented.¹ Thus, the filing system of the present invention can provide numerous advantages. By way of specific examples, the filing system can effectively provide increased operability, and can increase the availability of image data that is stored, reproduced, transmitted, or retrieved for authorized

¹ Page 35, lines 2-7 and 17-21 as well as page 38, lines 9-15 of Applicants' originally filed specification, and Figures 10 and 11.

users, while securing the image data in the filing system by preventing access to the image data by unauthorized users.

As recited in the independent claims, in the filing system a list displaying unit can display a list of owner identifications or re-use identifications appearing in a specifically defined sequence, and one of the owner identifications or the re-use identifications appearing in the sequence can be selected from among the displayed list. Thus, the claimed filing system is effective in providing increased operability for the user.

Safai is directed to a digital camera. In Safai a server 601 and a transport application carry out a handshaking operation. Specifically, the server 601 signals the transport application to send photos, and the transport application sends in digital form the selected photos to the server 601 along with an address entered by the user and any associated voice information.² Thus, contrary to the features of the claimed invention, in Safai the user is required to enter the addresses with no displayed list of owner identifications or re-use owner identifications. For these reasons, it is submitted that Safai does not disclose or render obvious the features recited in the claims.

Safai also does not disclose or render obvious the claimed features of selecting one of owner identifications or the re-use owner identifications from among the displayed list of the owner identifications or the re-use owner identifications appearing in a specifically defined sequence, as recited in the claims.

² Column 13, lines 49-53, of Safai.

For these reasons, it is requested that the rejection of the claims be withdrawn, and
that the claims be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,

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